

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TAIPEI 02942 201202Z
ACTION SS-25

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S E C R E T TAIPEI 2942

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, TW, US
SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR'S CALL ON FOREIGN MINISTER SHEN MAY 19, 1977

REF: A. TAIPEI 2940, B. TAIPEI 2941

FOLLOWING IS THE COMPLETE TEXT OF AIDE MEMOIRE HANDED TO AMBASSADOR
BY FOREIGN MINISTER SHEN MAY 19, 1977.

BEGIN TEXT

SINCE THE "SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE" WAS PUBLISHED IN FEBRUARY,
1972, THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HAS ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS DECLARED
THAT IT WOULD CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE
REPUBLIC OF CHINA AND HONOR THE MUTUAL DEFENCE TREATY OF 1954.
THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PEOPLE OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA WERE PARTI-
CULARLY APPRECIATIVE OF THE FIRM STAND PRESIDENT CARTER TOOK, IN
HIS CAMPAIGN SPEECHES LAST YEAR, ON THE MATTER OF THEIR SECURITY,
FREEDOM AND INDEPENDENCE.

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IN RECENT MONTHS, HOWEVER, STATEMENTS OF HIGH OFFICIALS IN
WASHINGTON FREQUENTLY REFERRED TO "THE QUESTION OF TAIWAN" AS
THE MAIN OBSTACLE IN THEIR DEALINGS WITH THE CHINESE COMMUNISTS,
WITHOUT AFFIRMING UNITED STATES' DIPLOMATIC AND TREATY RELATIONS
WITH THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA.

MOREOVER, A TOUR OF THE CHINESE MAINLAND WAS MADE BY AN

IMPORTANT CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION IN APRIL, AND A VISIT BEFORE THE END OF THIS YEAR BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE IS PLANNED. AN INTERNAL REVIEW OF THE U.S. POSITION VIS-A-VIS THE CHINESE COMMUNISTS IS SAID TO BE COMPLETED SOON; AND IN FACT NEGOTIATIONS HAVE BEEN CARRIED ON FOR SOME TIME WITH CHINESE COMMUNIST REPRESENTATIVES IN WASHINGTON ON FROZEN ASSETS, AND OTHER MATTERS.

THESE DEVELOPMENTS ARE NATURALLY OF SERIOUS CONCERN TO THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA INASMUCH AS THEIR VITAL INTERESTS ARE INVOLVED. IN HIS CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR JAMES SYN ON FEBRUARY 14, 1977, UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE PHILIP HABIB INTIMATED THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT WAS AWARE OF THE NEED FOR APPROPRIATE DISCUSSION ON MATTERS AFFECTING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND REPUBLIC OF CHINA.

IN THIS CONNECTION, IT IS TO BE RECALLED THAT AMBASSADOR LEONARD UNGER, ON THE OCCASION OF HIS FIRST FORMAL CALL ON PREMIER CHIANG, ON MAY 23, 1974, CONVEYED TO THE PREMIER SECRETARY KISSINGER'S

ASSURANCES THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT WOULD STAND BY ITS SECURITY COMMITMENT EMBODIED IN THE TREATY OF 1954 AND WOULD CONSULT WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA BEFORE TAKING ANY ACTION WHICH COULD HAVE A SIGNIFICANT EFFECT ON THE INTERESTS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA. SINCE THAT TIME, APART FROM A BRIEFING BY MR. HABIB ON DECEMBER 9, 1975, REGARDING PRESIDENT FORD'S VISIT TO THE CHINESE MAINLAND, THERE HAVE BEEN VERY FEW HIGH-LEVEL DISCUSSIONS ON THE RELATIONS OF THE TWO COUNTRIES.

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THE CHINESE COMMUNIST LEADERSHIP IS NOW IN UTTER DISARRAY AND THE DESPERATE MILLIONS ON THE MAINLAND ARE LOOKING TO THE FREE WORLD FOR MORAL SUPPORT IN THEIR STRUGGLE AGAINST TYRANNY. IT CANNOT BE, THEREFORE, TOO MUCH EMPHASIZED THAT ANY MOVE BY THE UNITED STATES AIMING AT CLOSER RELATIONS WITH THE CHINESE COMMUNISTS WILL HAVE FAR-REACHING REPERCUSSIONS AFFECTING NOT ONLY THE IMMEDIATE INTERESTS OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA BUT ALSO THE EXISTING EQUILIBRIUM IN THE ASIAN AND PACIFIC REGION.

EARLY LAST FEBRUARY, AT THE MEETING WITH UNDER-SECRETARY HABIB REFERRED TO ABOVE, AMBASSADOR SHEN WAS GIVEN TO UNDERSTAND THAT THE NEW ADMINISTRATION WAS PREPARED, AT AN OPPORTUNE MOMENT, TO REITERATE THE UNITED STATES POSITION OF MAINTAINING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA AND ABIDING BY THE COMMITMENT UNDER THE MUTUAL DEFENCE TREATY OF 1954. IN THIS RESPECT IT WOULD BE REASSURING TO THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA, IF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT COULD MAKE A PRONOUNCEMENT REAFFIRMING THAT POSITION. END TEXT.
UNGER

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